

Deciding not to have a Summary Care Record

The purpose of this information sheet is to ensure that you are clear what your decision could mean for you and your NHS care.

Our promise

First of all, if you decide not to have a Summary Care Record, and the extra security it offers, the NHS will do its best to provide you with safe, efficient care.

The purpose of the Summary Care Record is to ensure that, with your say so, anyone treating you has basic, but often important, information about you - especially when care is unplanned, an emergency or during evenings and weekends when there is no access to your GP health records.

You are in control

At first the information in your Summary Care Record would be limited to key medical information: any medication you have recently been prescribed, your known allergies and any unexpected reactions you have had to medicines you been given.

After that, your GP might think it is important to add additional information about conditions such as asthma, diabetes or conditions that those treating you should be alerted to, but you can ask for this to be limited. Over time, other significant information such as referrals, discharges and test results could be added.

Staying safe

NHS records usually move around by letter, e-mail, fax or phone and occasionally there are problems with lost records and test results.

There is also the possibility of misdiagnosis, being prescribed the wrong medication or suffering an allergic reaction without the right information being available to those treating you.

So the information in your Summary Care Record could save you and the NHS time and trouble, but one day it could also save your life.

With a Summary Care Record doctors and nurses would know at a crucial time:

- what medications you are taking, especially if they are many and complex
- what medications may have caused you problems in the past
- whether you have any allergies
- if any new medications they prescribe are likely to react badly with anything you are already taking
- if you have a condition that means you shouldn't have certain medicines.

Growing cover

And later on, as your Summary Care Record develops, you would be able use it to:

- see your test results as they come in
- check that your referral letters have been written
- remind yourself about important things said to you about your treatment
- inform NHS staff about your needs and how you want to be treated.

Substantial work is taking place to modernise the NHS, including the introduction of the Summary Care Record, in order to reduce errors, save lives and improve health outcomes for a great many people.

Modernising and computerising the NHS also brings with it new safeguards to ensure that information in your records is held more securely than in the past.

You can, of course, change your mind about having a Summary Care Record at any time and you might want to think about reviewing your decision about not having a record if your health changes.

More information

Finally, if you feel that you need more information before deciding to opt out of having a Summary Care Record, please contact the NHS Care Records Service Information Line on 0845 603 8510, visit their website at www.nhscarerecords.nhs.uk or speak to your GP.

Deciding not to have a Summary Care Record

Please complete and return this form to your GP to request that a Summary Care Record for you, or a child you are responsible for, is not created or is deleted.

This means that no Summary Care Record will be available to help treat you/them, even in the event of a medical emergency.

To be completed by the patient (or responsible parent or guardian) making the request

Please complete the PATIENT'S DETAILS in BLOCK CAPITALS

Title Surname/family name

Forename(s)

Address

Postcode Tel no.

Date of birth New NHS No (If known)

If you have any questions or if you wish to discuss your options or concerns before completing this opt out form please call the NHS Care Records Service Information Line on 0845 603 8510.

I request that my personal data, or the personal data of a person under 16 for whom I am responsible, are not added to or are deleted from the NHS Summary Care Record database and that no Summary Care Record be available to assist in treating me/them, even in an emergency situation.

I confirm that I have read the NHS South West Essex "Deciding not to have a Summary Care Record" information sheet and that I understand the consequences of taking this action and have carefully considered the implications of this for my/their health and health care.

I understand that if I change my mind at a future date, my GP will create a Summary Care Record for me on request.

Signature Date

Relationship to patient

Please return this form to the GP practice where you are registered. If you change to a different practice during the period when this form is being processed you should check with your new GP practice that they are aware of your wishes and do not create a Summary Care Record for you.